

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #70-11 Building Date: 1880's  
Building Name: Seabrook-Beseke house  
Location: 9409 Dubarry Avenue

Description:

The Seabrook-Beseke house is a two-and-one-half-story frame gable-roofed cottage which rests on a high brick basement. The principal facade is the north gable end: its first bay is a three-window semi-octagonal bay, and its second is the entrance door with five-light transom and three-light sidelights. The windows and door have plain board surrounds with shallow pediments. The entry porch is being replaced by a porch with brick steps and aluminum columns. On the three-bay west side of the house, there is narrow central peaked gable lighted by a five-pane pointed-arch window. There is one-story addition which runs the length of this west side. The north and south gable ends, as well as the central peaked gable on the west, are ornamented with elaborate bargeboards; the raised S-shaped ornaments on the bargeboards are missing. The original German siding is covered with asbestos shingle. There is a large central brick chimney. Interior alterations include removal of mantels and some of the molded surrounds of the doors.

Significance:

The Seabrook-Beseke house is one of three Victorian cottages constructed in the planned rural retreat of Seabrook; it has been significantly altered. The retreat community was developed by Thomas Seabrook, a Philadelphia engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Three Victorian cottages were constructed before 1888 and used as vacation residences by Thomas Seabrook and his colleagues, the subject house being used by Seabrook himself. After standing vacant for some years, this house was repaired in the 1930's, but major alterations were not undertaken until recent years. Some of the original features have been removed from the interior, and a one-story addition has been constructed along the west side of the house. The resulting house is recognizable as one of the three Seabrook cottages, but most of its original character has been lost.

Acreage: ca. 1 acre

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Seabrook House

and/or common Seabrook House #1 (Beseke House)

## 2. Location

street & number 9409 Dubarry Avenue ☐ not for publicationcity, town Seabrook ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county P.G.

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Roger Beseke

street &amp; number 9409 Dubarry Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Seabrook state and zip code Md. 20706

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber 4792

street &amp; number Main Street folio 572

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

pository for survey records History Division, MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state Md.

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #70-11

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Seabrook-Beseke house is a two-and-one-half story (ca. 23' x 30') frame gable-roofed cottage which rests on a high brick basement. The principal facade is the north gable end. In its first bay is a three-window semi-octagonal bay; its windows are 4/6. In the second bay is the principal entrance; the door has five-light transom and three-light side-lights. The original entry porch is presently being replaced by a porch with brick steps and baked aluminum columns. The windows and door have plain board surrounds with shallow pediments. At loft level in the north gable end is a small triangular window.

On the three-bay west side of the house, there is a narrow central peaked gable lighted by a five-pane pointed-arch window. There is a one-story addition which runs the length of the west side of the house. A raised deck has been constructed west of this addition.

The north and south gable ends, as well as the central peaked gable on the west facade, are ornamented with elaborate bargeboards; the raised S-shaped ornaments on the bargeboards are missing.

The original German siding is presently covered with asbestos shingle. There is a large central brick chimney. At ground level at the rear (south) of the house is an enclosed one-story porch/sunroom.

The interior of this house has been significantly altered, but its plan is known from the Kelly-Howerton house (cf. #70-14): front and back parlors on the east, stairhall on the west. The mantels have been removed and replaced in the connecting wall, and the architraves of some doors have been removed and modernized. In places where the architraves remain, they are the same heavy multiple-course ovolo moldings found in the Kelly house.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#70-11

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

<b>Specific dates</b>	1880's	<b>Builder/Architect</b>
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Seabrook-Beseke House is one of three Victorian cottages constructed in the planned rural retreat of Seabrook; it has, however, been significantly altered, unlike the easternmost cottage (P.G. #70-14).

The retreat community of Seabrook was developed by Thomas Seabrook, a Philadelphia engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad who had been instrumental in designing the railroad tunnels through Baltimore, and laying out the lateral branch (now the main line) from Bowie Junction into Washington.<sup>1</sup> In 1871, Seabrook purchased 223 1/4 acres of a tract called "Webb" and 275 adjoining acres, and a decade or so later began to lay out a resort community, easily accessible from the city of Washington by rail.<sup>2</sup>

Three Victorian cottages were constructed before 1888; the easternmost was sold, but the other two were retained by Seabrook, with the westernmost (the subject property) being used by Seabrook himself as a vacation residence. After Seabrook's death in 1897, this cottage was sold by his heirs to a real estate agency and rented out for many years; it had, however, stood vacant and unrepaired for a considerable period of time before the first private owners moved in in the mid-1930's. At that time the floor boards in the basement had rotted away, and the roof also had to be replaced. All the glass panes in the windows had been broken and were replaced. The interior woodwork and the mantels were left intact.<sup>3</sup>

Major alterations were made by later owners: the interior spaces were opened up, and some of the architrave molding was removed. The mantels were replaced. A one-story addition was built onto the west side of the house. The resulting house is recognizable as one of the three Seabrook cottages, but most of its original character has been lost.

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The History of the Pennsylvania Railroad, 1949.

<sup>2</sup> HB#4:626, Eq. #432/#434.

<sup>3</sup> Interview with 1930-1940's owner-resident, September 1984.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #70-11

History of the Pennsylvania Railroad, 1949. P.G. Co. Plat JWB#5:701.  
P.G. Co. Deeds: #4794:572; #3156:89; #2678:38; #1959:469: 775:374;  
#631:196; #83:262; HB #4:626; Equity #432/#434. P.G. Co. Tax Assessments.  
Interview with present and former owners, September 1984.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ca. 1 acre

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate September 1984street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro,state Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by  
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated  
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and  
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of  
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

PS

## NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

17 00975504

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
Seabrook Houses					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
9409, 9431 (?) and 9513 Duberry Avenue					
CITY OR TOWN:					
Seabrook					
STATE:			COUNTY:		
Maryland			Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
GENERAL TYPE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
4. OWNER OR POSSESSOR					
NAME:					
Various private owners, including Seabrook Baptist Church					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
(9513) and Alton Good (9409)					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
5. LOCATION LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC:					
Prince George's County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Upper Marlboro			Maryland		
Title Reference, if Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEY					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
None					
DATE OF SURVEY:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

## 7. DETERIORATION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrecovered
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

These three houses are identical in plan and original appearance. They were built by Seabrook in the mid-19th century; 9409 Duberry Avenue, being his own house and the other two being rentals.

The houses are 1-1/2 story, frame structures, sitting on high brick foundations. The entrance (north) facades are two bays, the westerly being a doorway with tall transom light and low-pedimented architrave, the easterly being a bay window. In the forward facing gable is a triangular window, the sides of which are segmental arches.

Only 9513 retains the original west facade treatment. A one story porch runs across the two bay facade. The north bay is a doorway with a tall transom light and the south bay is a tall window; both openings have low-pedimented architraves. The west-facing gable is extremely narrow, giving it a vertical appearance; it has a narrow, tall, triangular-arched window.

Features which distinguish these houses are central chimneys larger than those usually found on mid-nineteenth century houses, elaborate bargeboards consisting of a series of interconnected S curves, and tall finials in the gables.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<p>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century             <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century             <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century             <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century             <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century             <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century         </p>							
<p>SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) <u>1860</u></p>							
<p>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal  <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric  <input type="checkbox"/> Historic  <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture  <input type="checkbox"/> Art  <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce  <input type="checkbox"/> Communications  <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation             </td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> Education  <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  <input type="checkbox"/> Industry  <input type="checkbox"/> Invention  <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape  <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  <input type="checkbox"/> Military  <input type="checkbox"/> Music             </td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> Political  <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  <input type="checkbox"/> Science  <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture  <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  <input type="checkbox"/> Theater  <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation             </td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)                  _____                  _____                  _____                  _____                  _____                  _____                  _____             </td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____				
<p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</p> <p>The houses were built on land owned by Seabrook, a surveyor for the Philadelphia-Washington section of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. One house was his own residence and the other two were rental properties.</p> <p>Two of the houses have been altered. 9409 has had the porch enclosed and the finials shortened. 9431 (?) has had the the west porch removed and the bargeboards replaced with fasciae. Both buildings are restorable, however, since 9513 retains an almost pure original character.</p>							



# 1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				U S K	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
NW	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	0			0			0		
SE	0			0			0		
SW	0			0			0		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC	DATE: 15 Nov 73
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE: Maryland

## 12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

INSTRUCTIONS

P.G.# 70-11





P.G.#70-11

Seabrook House #1 (Beseke house)

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

September 1984

West elevation

Neg: Md.Hist.Trust, Annapolis,MD



P.G.#70-11

Seabrook House #1 (Beseke house)

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

September 1984

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md.Hist.Trust, Annapolis MD



P.G.#70-11

Seabrook House #1 (Beseke house)

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

September 1984

Northwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md.Hist.Trust, Annapolis,MD